

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO USIA WASHDC

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DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1595

USIAC

E.O. 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT FOR MRS. GALLAGHER AND MRS. DYKES

1. ONE OF LEBANESE REPRESENTATIVES ON TRIPARTITE LEBANESE-SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN HIGHER MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS TOLD US THAT COMMITTEE HAS DISCUSSED CASE OF TWO KIDNAPPED USIA OFFICERS SEVERAL TIMES AND THAT PLO REPRESENTATIVES ARE MORE ACTIVE THAN SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVES AT THIS POINT IN WORKING TO SECURE THEIR RELEASE. WE ARE KEEPING PRESSURE UP ON BOTH LEBANESE AND SYRIANS TO ENSURE THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IS BEING DONE.

2. DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF SURETE GENERALE HAS MEANWHILE ACCEPTED TWO MORE LETTERS FROM FAMILIES FOR DELIVERY TO TWO KIDNAPPED OFFICERS AND HAS ALSO AGREED TO TRANSMIT TO ABDUCTORS FOLLOWING QUESTIONS FROM EMBASSY: (A) WHAT IS EACH OFFICER'S STATE OF HEALTH; (B) IN EVENT MEDICAL TREATMENT IS NEEDED, WOULD ABDUCTORS PERMIT MEDICAL SPECIALIST TO EXAMINE AND/OR TREAT SICK OFFICER; (C) WOULD ABDUCTORS ALLOW TRANSMISSION OF PACKAGES WITH MEDICINES AND COMFORT ITEMS? WE WILL REPORT ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS IMMEDIATELY IF AND WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.

ROSS

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